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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT

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COUNTRY : USSR (Moscow Oblast)

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PLACE
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GENERAL

1. Khimki is a small city located 20 kilometers northwest of the heart of Moscow, situated directly on the Moscow-Leningrad highway and railroad, and just west of the Moscow-Volga Canal. The countryside between Moscow and Khimki is quite flat, as is the city itself, but just north of Khimki the land becomes rolling. To the best of my knowledge the land north and west of Khimki is principally forested and cultivated,

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The only large industrial plant in Khimki is Plant 456

at Plant 456 from 3,500 to 4,000 workers

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were employed, and to the best of my knowledge they all lived in the city. Except for Plant 456 Khimki generally has the appearance of a small town with numerous small shops and stores. Although an airfield is located on the western side of Khimki, this airfield was not used for commercial travel and did little to change the rural impression of the city. I do not remember having seen any extensive new construction of buildings in the city, and the only road construction I observed during my stay there was for repair and maintenance purposes.

AREA DESCRIPTION

2. I have drawn a sketch of Khimki to the best of my memory See page 11 on which I have indicated the following important points:

Point 1 Forested and Cultivated AreaPoint 2 Khimki Airfield

This airfield is roughly circular, about one kilometer in diameter, and is surrounded by a board fence two meters high. The field was visible, therefore, only from the hillsides north and northeast of our settlement, from where we could see that the field was covered with grass and that there were apparently no concrete runways. I do not remember whether there were any hangars or aircraft maintenance buildings here. During my period of employment at Plant 456 this field was in daily use for flight training in old biplanes and for rocket-assisted take-off and flight experiments utilizing rockets which were produced in Plant 456. See Report for a detailed discussion of Plant 456, which presents source's knowledge of these rockets. During my four years in Khimki I did not see any jet aircraft on this field. I am not sure what transportation facilities serve this field and have not shown any on my area layout sketch, but there may have been a railroad spur or road on the side of the field away from Plant 456 and the combustion chamber test stand.

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Point 3 Combustion Chamber Firing Test Stand

This test stand, designed to test V-2 combustion chambers under actual firing conditions, was assembled under German supervision, using parts taken by the Soviets from the German test stand at Lehesten, and was completed in mid-1947. I have drawn sketches of the test stand which show the size of the building and the method by which combustion chambers were tested see pages 12, 13, and 14. As shown, the test stand is about 16 meters long by 15 meters wide by 5 or 6 meters high. I do not know of what material the building is constructed, but believe that the walls around the part of the building where the combustion chambers are suspended when tested are concrete. Combustion chambers were brought to the test stand from the plant by truck and there transferred by crane to the scaffold mounted on rails which led into the building. Combustion chambers in the test position were suspended over a concrete foundation, extended by wooden planks on which technicians stood while making final adjustments and which were removed when test firing was to begin.

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Firing was controlled from the observation and control booth just to the side of the combustion chamber; the firing was observed directly through a special glass peephole by the engineer in charge of the test. The test stand was built at the top of a hill, the side of which been hollowed out and covered with interlocking slabs of some flame resistant material which looked to me like concrete. Flames from the combustion chambers were thus deflected down and away from the test stand into the open field about 15 to 20 meters below. At least two cylindrical fuel tanks, one and one half meters in diameter and three meters high, are located on one side of the building as shown. When our group left Khimki in September 1950, a second test stand was under construction here to test 100-ton thrust combustion chambers and should have been completed by late 1950 or early 1951. I do not know any further details of these test stands because I was not employed on the crew which constructed the first one and only heard about the second from other men in our group who had worked on it.

Point 4 Road

This road leads from Plant 456 to the test stand, is dirt surfaced, and is about four meters wide.

Point 5 "New Settlement" (Neue Siedlung)

This settlement contains about 12 to 14 one-story wooden buildings constructed in 1948 for Soviet personnel employed at Plant 456. I would estimate that each building included about six rooms and kitchen. I do not know with what facilities these buildings were equipped. As far as I know, only two families lived in each building.

Point 6 "Old Settlement" (Alte Siedlung)

Our group of Germans was quartered here when this settlement was completed in 1947. Until then our families lived at Menashinets, north of Moscow, and the male members of the group lived at the large apartment house (Point 18) in Khimki but visited their families on weekends. The 23 buildings in the Old Settlement were all of one story, built of wood, and ranged in size from seven by four meters to about ten by five meters. Each of the 17 German technicians who had their families with them had his own house; the five men (myself included) who did not have families in the USSR occupied one building, and the remaining five houses were occupied by Soviets. The size house a German family was assigned depended on the number of members in the family and on the amount of furniture which had accompanied the family from Germany. The houses were each equipped with electric lighting and an oven for heat, but we obtained water from a well enclosed in a small wooden shack in the center of the settlement.

Point 7 Soviet Living Quarters

Although I do not remember the exact size of these wooden buildings, I do remember that they are larger than the buildings in our settlement. Families of workers at Plant 456 lived here, one family to each room. As far as I know, these quarters were provided with light, heat, and running water.

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Point 8 Khimkakh River [] The correct name for this stream is probably "Khimka." 50X1-HUM
 This was not really a river, but was actually a very narrow, shallow stream, possibly three meters wide and not more than one meter deep. During the winter it froze completely, and during the summer it often dried up to little more than a trickle. When fed by melting snow in the spring, however, it often grew as wide as 12 meters and occasionally flooded some of the land between Plant 456 and the Moscow-Volga Canal, covering land possibly as far as 20 meters to the side of the stream bed. The two roads which cross the Khimkakh, that is, just west of our settlement and about one kilometer east of the settlement as shown, lead to towns north of Khimki.

Point 9 Site of Former Church
 When I arrived in the USSR in 1946, this building was being used as a foundry. It burned down in 1947 or 1948, and I do not know if it was ever rebuilt.

Point 10 Khimki Firehouse
 This building is 10 meters long, 7 meters wide, and has a flat roof. On the ground floor are garages for the fire fighting equipment, and living quarters for firemen are on the second. I believe that this building was constructed of bricks, but I am not sure. (It is not a wooden building.) At the northwest corner of this building is a square tower about 20 meters high at the top of which a lookout continually surveys the surrounding countryside through binoculars for evidences of fire.

Point 11 Plant 456
 This plant is about 250 meters on a side, and the exterior walls are constructed of building blocks or bricks. The plant and the surrounding land are enclosed by a wooden fence about two meters high, indicated by the broken line on my sketch of the area. The fence is pierced by gates at the six points marked "G" on my sketch. For a detailed discussion of Plant 456 and the security measures in force at this plant during 1946-1950 see Report [] 7

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Point 12 Storage Area
 This area is concrete surfaced and was used for the storage of heavy equipment, such as metal plates, machine tools, boilers, tanks, etc., which had been taken from dismantled German V-2 construction and testing installations.

Point 13 Railroad Spur
 This single-track, standard-gage spur led to Plant 456 from the Moscow-Leningrad Railway. Plant supplies were brought in on this spur, and I believe that certain items produced by the plant were also shipped out via rail. The reason this line continued beyond the plant's storage areas was so that stones could be brought to the stone crusher (Point 17).

Point 14 Storage Area
 Here were stored expendable plant supplies, particularly firewood and lumber, but also some sheet metal. This area was simply a cleared expanse of ground and had no special surface.

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Point 15 Plant Garages

The motor pool of Plant 456 was located here and consisted of both trucks and smaller vehicles for personnel transportation. I do not remember any details of the size or construction materials of this building.

Point 16 Plant Personnel Office

This building, about 10 meters square, was constructed of wood and had only one floor. Meetings of the plant trade union were held here, and our German group also attended monthly political lectures here.

Point 17 Stone Crusher

I do not remember any specific details of this stone crusher, but I believe that it was enclosed in an open shed. As far as I know, it was owned by the city of Khimki and had no direct connection with Plant 456. Crushed stone from this crusher was used for street repair and construction in Khimki.

Point 18 Soviet Living Quarters

These five-story buildings were constructed of brick and were at least 100 meters long by 20 meters wide. I do not know when these buildings were built, but they were standing when our group arrived in Khimki. The male members of our group were quartered on the top floor of one of these buildings during the week while our families were living in Menshinets until our permanent homes in the "Old Settlement" were completed. As far as I know, these buildings belong to Plant 456, and hundreds of workers' families live here.

Point 19 Captive Balloon Plant

About seven to nine kilometers northeast of Plant 456, on the eastern side of the Moscow-Volga Canal and diagonally opposite the village of Starbevo (55 - 56N, 37 - 28E), is a plant which manufactures captive balloons. I know this because we could see the balloons being tested in the air while taking walks in summer northward along the Moscow-Volga Canal and also when skiing during the winter in the pine woods near Starbevo. The closest I ever observed one of these balloons was from a distance of about 250 to 300 meters. The balloons are cylindrical in shape, about 15 to 20 meters long by five meters thick, with a round nose and four fins at the stern. Some of the balloons were tested with a basket suspended about seven to ten meters under the central part of the body of the balloon. I do not know the purpose of the baskets, but it may have been for observation purposes or ballast. I know no details of the plant itself because it was hidden in thick foliage and not visible from where we observed the balloons.

Point 20 Moscow-Volga Canal

This canal is 20 to 25 meters wide and at least 8 meters deep in the middle. The sides of the canal are lined with large paving stones. The canal is the principal water link between Moscow and the open sea via the Volga River and is used for cargo barges as well as for passenger steamers. For a detailed discussion of this canal as well as of the other transportation facilities serving Khimki see Report

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Point 21 Canal Lock

This lock is not for raising or lowering the level of the water in the canal but is an emergency lock to be used to prevent the escape of water from this section of the canal if one of the other locks is damaged or under repair. This lock consists of a barrier normally sunken into the bed of the canal but which would be raised vertically into the canal to shut off the flow of water in an emergency. This we learned only from conversations with Soviets because we Germans were not permitted to approach the lock itself. Once when a group of us approached the lock in our small paddle boats, a guard at the lock fired a shot over our heads to warn us away. I estimate that we were in about the middle of the canal and about 50 meters from the lock at that time. I do not remember if there were any physical fortifications such as barbed wire or gun emplacements around this lock.

Point 22 Sport Field

Football (American soccer) matches were held here.

Point 23 Club House

Dances and motion picture presentations were held here; there was also a library containing both Russian and German books. I do not remember any details of the size or construction materials of this building. The building was open to Germans as well as to Soviets.

Point 24 Children's Home

Children of plant workers were left here during the day while their parents worked at the plant.

Point 25 Large School

I do not remember this building well enough to be able to estimate its size or construction materials. However, I believe that it was attended by children 14 years of age and older.

Point 26 Soviet Residential District

I do not remember the exact street layout in this district, but I am sure that there are no significant landmarks or buildings here. As I remember, the streets in the residential districts of Khimki varied in width from four to six meters, and were surfaced with either gravel or dirt.

Point 27 Polyclinic

This polyclinic was housed in a stone building 20 x 10 meters, one floor only, and included a dental clinic, an X-ray machine, and other facilities to treat eye, ear, nose, throat, nerve, and internal disorders as well as general first-aid treatments.

Point 28 Rest Park (Kulturpark)

This was a general recreation area equipped with a large motion picture theater, a dance hall, cabarets, and a children's playground. Admission to this park cost one ruble.

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Point 29 Bathing Beaches

These "beaches" were simply bare expanses of land fronting on the Moscow-Volga Canal. "Admission" was free, but there were absolutely no facilities for changing clothes or life saving.

Point 30 Post Office

This wooden building was 10 by 10 meters and had two floors plus a cellar. I believe the telephone central for Khimki was located here, and in addition to postal facilities I believe that it was also possible to send telegrams from here. I do not believe this was the main post office for Khimki, but I do not know the location of any other.

Point 31 Moscow-Leningrad Railroad

Through Khimki, including the bridge over the Moscow-Volga Canal, this railroad was double tracked. As I remember, guards were posted along this railroad only at the bridge.

Point 32 Railroad Bridge

This bridge is 40 to 50 meters long and about 10 meters above the water level. As I remember, it is immovable and was rebuilt of steel-reinforced concrete in 1945 or 1946 because it was destroyed during the war. The area around this bridge was very heavily fortified with barbed wire, and at least one sentry was on duty here 24 hours every day. At both ends of the bridge are emplacements, probably for heavy machine guns, but I could not see if the guns were in place because the entire area was camouflaged and concealed by trees and bushes. Approach to this bridge by either land or water was prohibited after 8:00 p.m.

Point 33 Water Police Headquarters

This one-story building was constructed of wood and was about seven by four meters in size. I was never inside this building and consequently do not know what it contains. The motorboats belonging to the Water Police were docked at a wharf on the side of the canal here.

Point 34 Hospital

This building is a former castle, but I do not know when it was converted to a hospital. It is two stories high, built of stone, and is about 60 by 20 meters. When I was in this hospital in 1950 for an appendix operation, conditions were terribly crowded with beds even set up in corridors, and I estimate that the hospital contained at that time from 300 to 400 beds. I do not know whether this was the normal state of affairs or whether some emergency had filled the hospital beyond capacity.

Point 35 Moscow-Leningrad Highway

Through Khimki this highway consists of a single strip of asphalt about 10 meters wide.

Point 36 Highway Bridge

The Moscow-Leningrad highway narrows to about five meters over this bridge, with an additional meter on each side for pedestrians. This immovable bridge is built of steel, is about 100 meters long, and is about 10 to 12 meters above the water

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level. The asphalt surface of the highway continues up the approaches to the bridge, which are 500 to 600 meters long, but the highway surface across the bridge itself consists of wooden planks. At both ends of the bridge are barbed wire fortifications and machine gun emplacements, and at least one Soviet soldier guards this bridge 24 hours every day. To the best of my knowledge there are no weight limitations imposed in the use of this bridge.

Points 37 Sawmills

I do not remember these buildings well enough to estimate their sizes, but I believe they were both constructed of wood. Timber was floated down the Moscow-Volga Canal to these mills. I believe a PW camp is associated with the mill on the northeast side of the Moscow-Leningrad highway, but I can furnish no details of it.

Points 38 Soviet Residential Districts

In addition to houses, these districts contained numerous small stores, but no important ones that I can remember. There were, of course, many streets in these districts, but I do not remember the exact layout. I was never west of the residential area shown as Point 38-A and am unable to state what lies in this region.

Point 39 Restaurant

As I remember, this is the only restaurant in Khimki. It is a wooden building about eight by eight meters.

Point 40 Khimki City Registrar's Office

It was here that we paid the rent for our living quarters. This wooden building was 15 meters long by seven meters wide and had two floors. On the first floor were living quarters for workers, and on the second were the office of the City Registrar and additional workers' living quarters.

Point 41 Barracks

These barracks were filled with Spaniards whom the Soviets had kidnapped as children from Spain at the conclusion of the Spanish Civil War. One of the men in our group REINHARDT - see Report [] married a Spaniard from this group. I do not know what facilities these barracks were equipped with. A PW camp may have been located in this vicinity because the PW's employed on construction work at Plant 456 were marched in this direction each day at the close of work. These PW's left Khimki in 1948, and I do not know to what use the camp was then put.

Point 42 Khimki Railroad Station

This building is about 15 by 5 or 6 meters. I do not remember how many floors it had nor the material of which it is constructed. Freight was handled at the eastern end of the station, but I do not believe that the freight department consisted of more than a shed. I did not see any special loading equipment here--all loading and unloading was done by hand.

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Point 43 Khimki Police Station

I do not remember any details concerning the size or construction materials of this building, and never having been inside, I am unable to say what it contains.

Point 44 Marketing Area

In the shops in this district it was possible to obtain not only food but also clothing, tobacco products, hardware, etc. I am not sure, but I presume that these shops were controlled by the Soviet Government.

Point 45 Bakery and Pharmacy

The only pharmacy in Khimki was located here, but I do not remember whether it was to the left or right of the bakery.

Point 46 Large Apartment House

I do not remember how large this building is because I passed it only once. When travelling to Moscow by bus, we usually bypassed this building by approaching the Moscow-Leningrad Highway via the road in front of the market and the bakery; however, this road was once closed for repairs and the bus was forced to detour via the road on the other side of this building. The reason I mention it is that the electric power plant for the city of Khimki may be located here because the husband of one of the interpreters at Plant 456 worked here, and he was the director of the Khimki power station. I do not know whether he simply had his office here with the actual power plant being elsewhere, or whether this was the location of the power station also.

CIVIL AIR DEFENSE MEASURES IN EFFECT AT KHIKMI

3. During my four years in the USSR the only indication of civil air defense measures which I observed were long arrows pointing to the cellars of the large apartment buildings (Point 18) where the male members of our group were quartered in late 1946 and early 1947. These arrows, one on each side of each cellar entrance pointing diagonally downward toward the entrance, were about one meter long, and against a dark wall were painted in white, and on a light wall were painted black. I do not remember exactly what was printed on the walls with the arrows, but I believe that a number indicated the number of people each cellar room could accommodate. I should point out, however, that these buildings were built before our group arrived in Khimki and were probably built before the German invasion of the USSR, and these arrows may have been a remnant of civil air defense measures in connection with the Russo-German war. Aside from these arrows, I do not recall ever having seen or heard of any civil air defense measures such as air raid drills, air raid shelters, establishment of blood banks, production or distribution of gas masks and fire fighting equipment, or civil defense organizations. I do not remember having ever heard of DOSAAF or MPVO.
4. In regard to the vulnerability of the buildings with which I am familiar in the USSR, I would say that since most Soviet living quarters are constructed of wood, they would be vulnerable to

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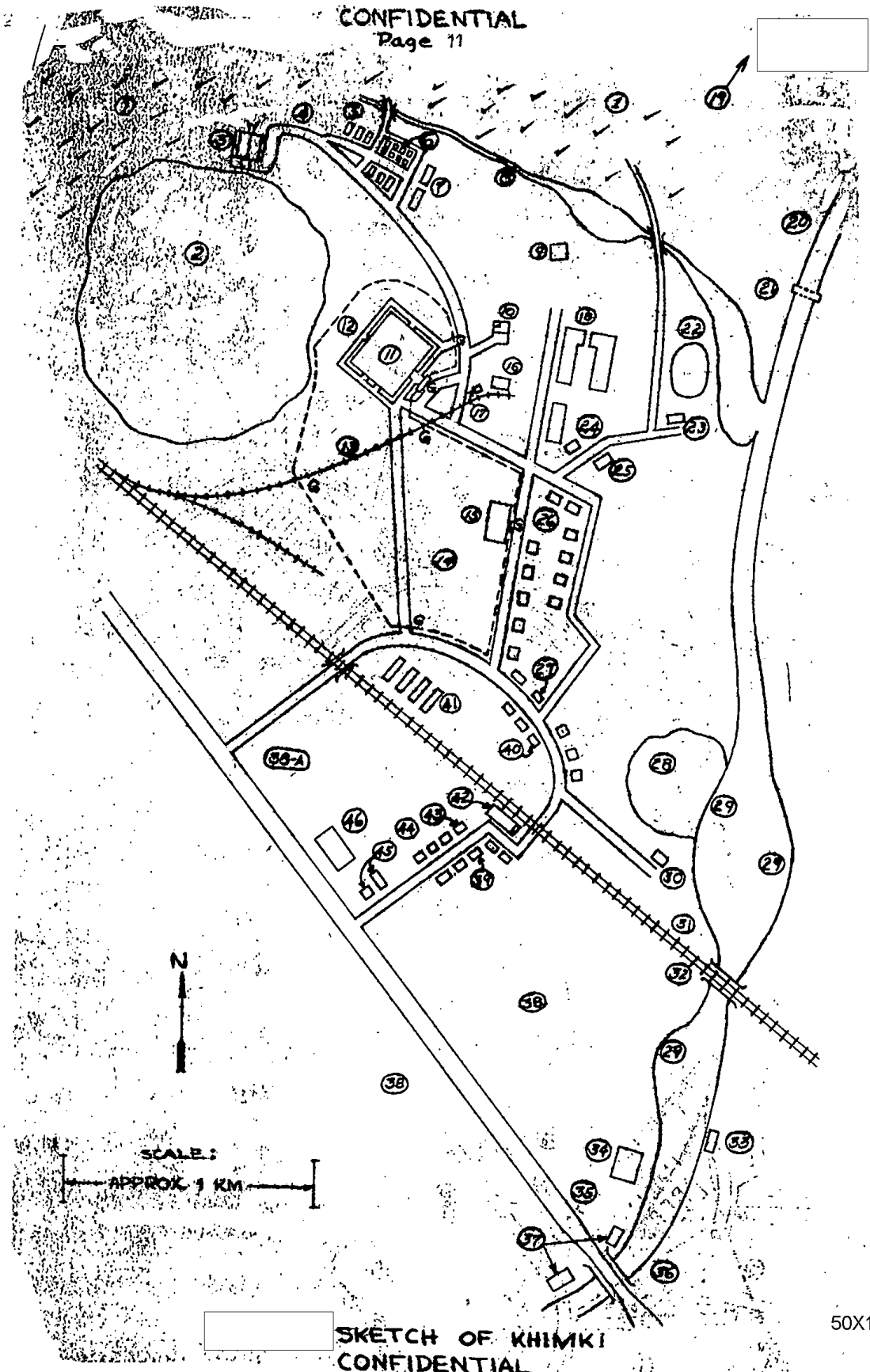
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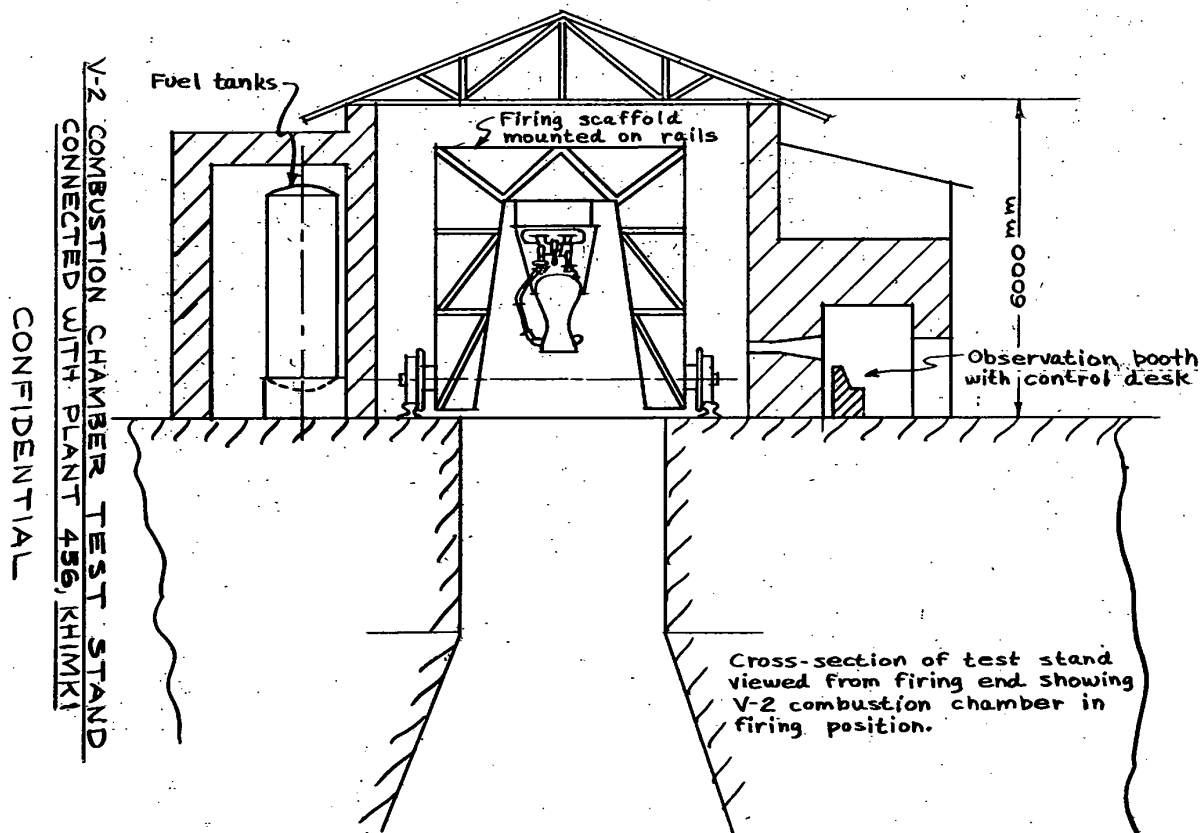


either incendiary or high explosive bombs. However, stone or brick buildings such as Plant 456, the Khimki firehouse, or the large buildings in Moscow itself would be vulnerable only to high explosive bombs. The railroad and highway bridges across the Moscow-Volga Canal outside Khimki are constructed of steel and concrete and would therefore be vulnerable only to high explosive bombs.

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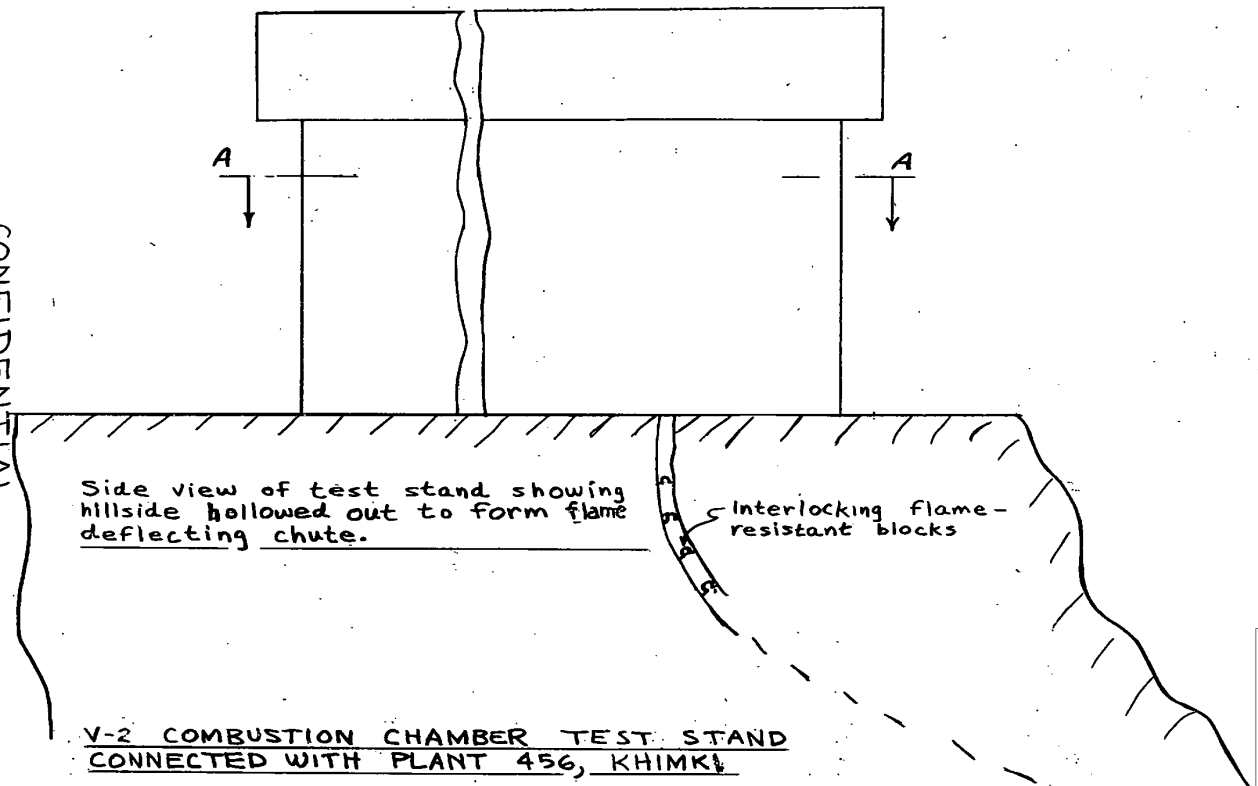


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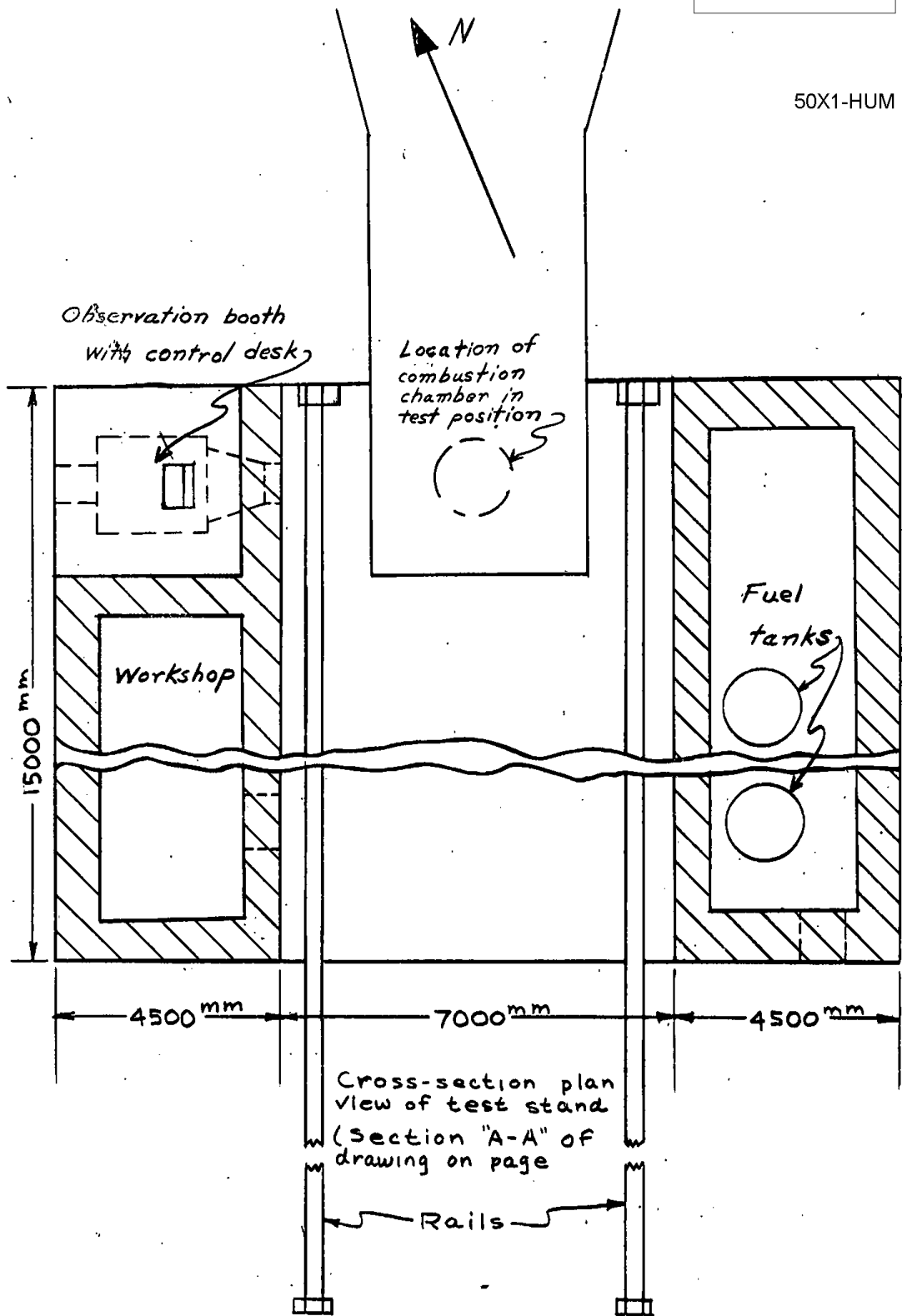


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V-2 COMBUSTION CHAMBER TEST STAND
CONNECTED WITH PLANT 456, KHIMKI
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